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112 Pasbehegh Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185

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March 9, 2000

Ms. Jane Henney, MD
Commissioner Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Ms. Henney,

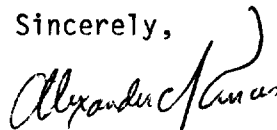
I understand there is a proposal to require an audiologist to prescribe hearing aids. This would eliminate the choice of someone to order by mail a less expensive hearing aid.

I oppose this proposal. A number of years ago my hearing had dropped off enough that on occasion a hearing aid would help. I ordered one by mail because the cost was relatively low. Had I had to pay the high price of one via an audiologist I probably would have waited years until it was absolutely necessary. The unit I ordered worked very well for years and I still use it as a back up.

Being an electronic engineer, I am astounded at the cost of some of the advertised units. Microelectronics have matured. There needs to be competition, especially for those who can least afford the high prices.

Hearing Aids are not like drugs, which can kill. The worst that will happen is the unit may be unsatisfactory. Again, with the excellent microelectronics, affordable units are reliable and satisfactory. Let the customer choose.

Sincerely,



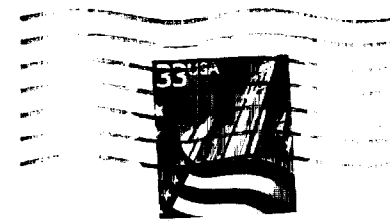
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